

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LABOR PROBLEMS AT TARIS

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1. AT TARIS, THE AEGAN AGRICULTURAL SALES COOPERATIVE, LABOR DISTURBANCES HAVE LED TO THE DISMISSAL OF 214 WORKERS, ALLEGED TO BE AFFILIATED WITH MISK, ULKU OCAKLARI ORGANIZATIONS AND THE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP). THE DISMISSALS WERE SPARKED BY A PROTEST AND OCCUPATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AT THE COTTON YARN FACTORY LOCATED AT CIGLI (NEAR IZMIR) ON APRIL 17. 182 WORKERS FORM THE YARN FACTORY, AND 32 FROM THE RAISIN PROCESSING PLANT

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WERE DISMISSED UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE LABOR LAW. THE DISMISSALS WERE NOT SUPRISING SINCE TARIS ADMINISTRATIONS UNDER THE "FRONTIST GOVERNMENT" HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF PERMITTING RIGHT-WING "COMMANDOS" TO TAKE OVER SOME OF TARIS' OPERATIONS AND USING THESE AS A BASE FOR RIGHT-WING ACTIVITIES.

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2. THE DISMISSED WORKERS, SUPORTED BY THE LOCAL MISK, NAP AND ULKU OCALKARI ORGANIZATION HELD A SMALL, PEACEFUL RALLY IN IZMIR TO PROTEST THE DISMISSALS ON APRIL 22. HOWEVER, DURING THAT WEEKEND, THE HOMES OF THREE YARN FACTORY ADMINISTRATORS WERE BOMBED, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES. THE POLICE, IN RESPONSE, HAVE INCREASED SECURITY AT TARIS AND FOR TARIS AD-MINISTRATORS, BUT SEEM TO EXPECT FURTHER VIOLENCE.

3. TARIS DIRECTOR ERDINC GONENC HAS MAINTAINED THAT WORKERS WERE DISMISSED NOT FOR THEIR POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THEY CREATED INCIDENTS, SUCH AS OCCUPATION OF THE YARN FACTORY AND ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT MONIES FROM FELLOW WORKERS BY FORCE. WORKERS WITH POLITICAL AIMS, HE STRESSED, WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN TARIS. THE MISK REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS IN TURN CASTIGATED CONENC FOR TRYING TO FASTEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR

THE DISTURBANCES ON MISK PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE POLICE IN-

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VESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENTS.

4. BEGIN COMMENT. AS REFS INDICATE, TARIS HAS BECOME A POLITICAL

BATTLEGROUND WITH A FLUID LABOR SITUATION. THIS HAS LED TO CONTINUING VIOLENCE, MUCH OF WHICH IS UNFORTUNATELY DIRECTED AT WORKERS AND HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED TARIS' PRODUCTIVITY. POLITIKA, IN A RECENT NINE-PART SERIES, AND LOCAL IZMIR PAPERS, HAVE PRINTED STORIES WHICH PURPORT TO DOCUMENT THE APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF WORKERS FOR PURELY POLITICAL REASONS BY FORMER TARIS DIRECTORS DAUT AND TANYEL, THE INTIMIDATION OF WORKERS, THE COLLECTION FROM TARIS WORKERS OF ULKU DUES BY FORCE, AND THE ATTEMPT TO TURN

TARIS INTO AN ULKU
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STRONGHOLD. THIS PUBLICITY IS LIKELY TO FUEL THE CONTROVERSY. FROM WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE, THERE IS NO COURT-SANCTIONED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGENT AT TARIS, AND THUS VARIOUS UNIONS HAVE TRIED TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES THROUGH WORKER APPOINTMENTS CONTROLLED BY THE TARIS DIRECTOR. THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE "DEPOLITICIZING" TARIS. ACCORDINGLY, FURTHER PROBLEMS CAN BE EXPECTED. END COMMENT.

MOFFETT

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